

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on December 1, 2004. Claims 1 – 11 are pending in the present application, with claims 7 – 11 having been previously withdrawn from consideration. Applicants amend claims 1, 2 and 6. No new matter is added.

OBJECTED CLAIM

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 2 is objected to as being dependent on rejected base claim 1, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. Applicants amend claim 2 accordingly, and respectfully submit that amended claim 2 is allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to claim 2 be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3 - 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,041,966 to Meki et al. Applicants amend claim 1 to further clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse this rejection.

In each of independent claims 1 and 6, Applicants disclose a transmission apparatus utilizing SDH, capable of extracting an SSM from an input and selecting either the extracted SSM or a second SSM set by a processing unit of the transmission apparatus. In amended independent claim 1, for example, Applicants disclose:

1. A transmission apparatus utilizing an SDH (Synchronous Digital Hierarchy), comprising:

a processing unit controlling said transmission apparatus;

an SSM (Synchronization Status Message) extraction unit extracting a first SSM from an input signal; and

a selector selecting either of said first SSM and a second SSM set by said processing unit so that said second SSM is selected when a conversion of said first SSM is needed.

Meki discloses a method of synchronization status message processing in a transmission apparatus comprising a master unit and one or more slave units (see, e.g., abstract of Meki). With reference to FIGs. 3 and 4 of Meki, processor 11f of master unit 11 compares a received synchronization status for its own shelf with a synchronization status of a slave shelf 12, and selects the signal having the highest quality level as the master clock (see, e.g., column 11, lines 10 – 30 of Meki). In this manner, Meki teaches a technique for efficiently collecting synchronization information received by the slave into the master unit when the synchronization information in the slave unit has a comparatively higher quality.

In sharp contrast, according to Applicants' invention as claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 6, a processor is configured to set a second "assumed" synchronization message (second SSM), and to select (or switch to) the second SSM when a conversion of the first SSM is needed, for example, because a condition represented by the first SSM represents a "signal fail" such that the first SSM cannot be used (see, e.g., page 11, line 33 through page 14, line 29 of Applicants' specification). In other words, the second SSM is selected only when it is determined that the first SSM is unsuitable. Meki fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed second SSM that is set by a processor, and selector selecting the second SSM only when a conversion of the first SSM is needed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1 and 6 are not anticipated by Meki, and stand in condition for allowance. As dependent

claims 3 – 5 depend from allowable independent claim 1, Applicants further submit that dependent claims 3 – 5 are also allowable for at least this reason.

Applicants substantially reapply the above arguments to independent claim 15 which also recites limitations directed maintaining a current antenna directivity by adjusting the current antenna directivity to account for movements of the mobile terminal, and submit that claim 15 is allowable. As claims 2 – 4, 6 - 14 and 16 – 18 each depend from one of allowable claims 1 and 15, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 – 4, 6 - 14 and 16 – 18 are allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 – 6, including independent claims 1, 2 and 6, and the claims that depend therefrom, stand in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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